Should you convert to Microsoft's Windows 7 Operating System (OS) for your computer? About a third of the club members are now using it and others are thinking about it.

Steve and Howard led a discussion about how the new system was performing.

Microsoft says it has sold more that 100 million licences; that over a quarter of a million devices work with the system and that over a million software applications will run within it. The software includes 8 out of 10 top accounting packages; all 10 top games (in the US) and all 10 top (US) security applications. They admit that some might need an already available upgrade package to run them.

5,000 applications and 13,000 devices and components carry the "Compatible with windows 7" logo.

Microsoft is unsurprisingly positive, but what do others say?

PC ADVISER magazine nominated the OS as Product of the Year 2009, beating Microsoft's own "Bing" browser; Google's "Street View" and Apples iPhone. It describes the new OS as "the worthy successor to Windows XP that Vista never was."

(Vista is the Marmite of operating systems in that users tend to love it or hate it.)

Other sites carried similar comments; all confirming what the experts had expected all along. The feeling is that Microsoft is improving its position.

The ensuing discussion brought out several points.

Several were running XP on one machine and Windows 7 on another. Most of these were still happily familiarising themselves with the new OS to discover the additional benefits. Windows 7 is definitely faster.

It was noted that those who were happy with XP, or indeed Vista, felt no need to upgrade. As what they currently use does everything they need, then they see no point in changing. (Many folk simply hate change anyway).

Widows XP will work quite well for some years yet; even if not fully supported by Microsoft – and there are SOME applications that do not work under the new OS.

Some users who bought machines pre-loaded with Vista insisted on 'downgrading' back to XP. That will not happen if the next one has Windows 7 on it.

Diehards will stick with the familiar until forced to change. The cash saving will eventually convert to a cost in time and trouble to keep the old thing running. Like a classic car enthusiast their effort might result in some satisfaction, but probably nowhere near as much. To be fair, there are some satisfied guys at Bletchley Park (a lovingly reconstructed Colossus) and the adjoining National Computer Museum with ancient models kept working.

For the rest, most people will be contentedly using the latest OS in a few years time. It is looking good.

A brief display of how single or multiple windows can be handled on screen was a revelation to some.

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In Brief

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